

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

All-new telephone books have recently been distributed in the Elba area. While some people file the old books away in the attic, most of us dispose of them, either immediately or within a few short weeks. Let us strongly urge you to put the old books into Elba's ongoing recycling system. In addition to the phone books, the system regularly recycles magazines, newspapers, cardboard, aluminum, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, as well as tin cans. This saves landfill cost, helps keep down future garbage-disposal charges and at the same time is further protection of the environment for future generations. Phone books pile up in a hurry and added to a few newspapers and magazines, can make a real difference.

Proposals to limit dog hunting in Alabama has raised the ire of many area hunters, as was indicated in a recent letter-to-the-editor. The demands of society are changing and bringing with it stronger and stronger opposition to many of the world's traditions. Of course hunters who abuse the property of others hasten the implementation of new laws limiting hunting. America is not the only place these changes are taking place. In England, the age-old tradition of fox hunting may soon be ending. A new law being endorsed by the House of Commons would ban all fox hunting in England. While it may be stalled by opponents and not win final approval this year, British political experts predict it will become the law by next year.

Adding subsidies for prescription drugs to Medicare is the hot topic in Washington these days (aside from the upcoming presidential election). We fully understand the need for some sort of insurance, or something, to cushion the cost of today's expensive medications, yet there is a question of this being another step toward socialized medicine . . . something long resisted in the United States. The proposed prescription bill will cost billions and still is not a perfect answer for everyone's drug costs. If (no when) it is approved, we can expect expansions of the plan, and more cost to taxpayers, over the next several years. Right now we are puzzled over a clause in the bill that leaves a blip in prescription co-payments somewhere between the \$4,000 and over \$5,000 of medicine expense. The bill being considered co-pays up to a point, drops out for a while and then picks up again. Why?

Congress has another bill on the fast track that hopefully will never be put to the test of actually being used. It is the "order of succession list" for the federal government, should disaster strike the office of the president. The current order of succession lists Vice President Dick Cheney, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Senate President Pro Tempore Ted Stevens, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of the Treasury Tom Ridge about 17th on the list. Many of the people in the offices listed probably are no more qualified than this country boy, but at least they are on the payroll. The new bill will pull Homeland Security up above Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, HUD, Education, etc. That is probably good, but they need to proceed with caution, and not grant excessive powers to one agency head, or department. Even in times of disaster, we need to remember this is a country with pride in our freedoms. In other words, let's be careful in construction of this new Homeland Security agency . . . both in Washington and Alabama.

A recent opinion article we read makes things look bad for the Democrat in the upcoming presidential elections. With George W. Bush and his Republican party holding a commanding lead over a Democratic party with no clear candidate at this point, the Democrats are by nature attracting all the "left of center" which means liberal groups, each with a singular, often narrow, cause. This grouping (or image) will reportedly further drive conservatives and moderates to George W., unless he falls flat or a miracle happens with the Democrats . . . and, so on.

Oh, there are about 4,027 PACs registered in Washington as of Jan. 1st. All these folks have a political agenda and will be pumping millions into national campaigns. Some traditionally support either Democrats or Republicans while others follow either the most conservative or liberal talking candidate. Again, the liberals can't swallow George Bush, so they will pile up on whatever Democratic candidate survives the primaries. That will create a picture most Southern Democrats would rather not face on election day.

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(Downtown Jack, AL)

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USPS 171-080

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Linda Hodge - EDITOR

Ricky Mularz - SPORTS

Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

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6 months - \$11

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Why the flat tax is a good idea...Editorial by Senator Richard Shelby

In May of this year, Congress passed a \$330 billion tax cut. I strongly supported this initiative, and in fact, I would have preferred an even more robust tax cut. During the tax debate, I also introduced legislation that would change our current taxpaying system, but in an entirely different way - it's called the flat tax. The flat tax legislation would replace the current Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a flat tax rate that would apply to all taxpayers. This means that all taxpayers would be taxed at an equal rate - seven percent. No more unfair

special interest deductions, or unclear provisions, or painstaking forms to fill out. The flat tax simplifies every part of the taxpaying process, while providing a more fair system for all Americans to follow.

I have been a national advocate for this issue for nearly twenty years. I first introduced legislation to reform the U.S. tax code with a flat tax system on May 23, 1984, when I served in the United States House of Representatives.

Since that time, I have introduced similar flat tax legislation five more

times in the Senate. Before his

retirement in 2002, Representative Dick Armey (R-TX) and I partnered on this cause, forming the Congressional Flat Tax Caucus and encouraged our colleagues to join us in this important initiative.

We know all too well that the tax code is painfully inefficient, and the complexities overwhelm the average taxpayer. Since 1986, there have been more than 6,500 changes to the Internal Revenue Code. Each time Congress has the opportunity to make one of these changes, we add new layers of complexity and confusion to an already labyrinthine maze that no one can fully comprehend.

Our current tax code is convoluted and penalizes those who lack the resources to prepare their own taxes or hire a professional to determine their tax liability. Because the tax code is so complex, even the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) own experts are often uncertain of what is required to be in compliance with the current law.

According to Daniel Pilla, a tax litigation consultant in 1993, the IRS telephone taxpayer assistance program provided about 8.5 million

Americans the wrong answers to even the most basic inquiries about the tax law. If the IRS, the very federal agency charged with enforcing the tax laws, cannot figure out the code, how can we expect the American people to do so?

My proposed flat tax will eliminate the complexity and correct the vast and pervasive inequities of the current system

The time for major tax reform is now. Proposed amendments to the current tax code only perpetuate the complexities and inequities of the current system.

The flat tax would not only simplify the tax code so that all taxpayers could easily complete their own returns, it would more importantly treat all Americans equally. Only by treating every taxpayer equally can our tax code ever achieve true fairness.

The following arrests were made: one for driving under the influence, two for reckless endangerment, one for harassment, one missing juvenile, one dog attack, one violation of a visitation order, four for theft of property, one driving under the influence, one vehicle damage, one breaking and entering of a vehicle, one broken window, one sexual misconduct and one criminal mischief.

The following arrests were made: one for driving under the influence, two for failure to appear, one for minor in possession, one for harassment and one for assault.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for reckless endangerment, one for running a stop sign, one for no insurance, one for an improper u-turn and one for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, JUNE 23 - River stage - 8.62 feet (6:07 a.m.); Disturbance reported at the office of Jarod, Jarod & Brunson (2:19 p.m.); Disturbance reported on Jackson St. (11:15 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JUNE 24 - River stage - 8.08 feet (6:17 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a house fire across from Whitewater Church (9:55 p.m.).

SATURDAY, JUNE 28 - River stage - 6.21 feet (6:19 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck at the intersection of Hwy. 167 and Hwy. 125 (1:27 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 513 Addison St. (1:42 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 742 Reed Ave. (5:58 p.m.).

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 - Loud music reported on Powell Circle (1:05 a.m.); River stage - 6.45 feet (6:06 a.m.); Disturbance reported at 329 Sollie Dr. (8:20 p.m.).

Elba Police Report

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Beginning Monday, June 23, 2003, investigated the following incidents: two for reckless endangerment, one for harassment, one missing juvenile, one dog attack, one violation of a visitation order, four for theft of property, one driving under the influence, one vehicle damage, one breaking and entering of a vehicle, one broken window, one sexual misconduct and one criminal mischief.

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\$1.37
POUND

8 LBS. OR MORE
GROUND
BEEF
\$1.07
POUND

CRY-O-VAC
BOSTON BUTT
PORK ROAST
\$1.07
POUND

2 LBS. BAG
ZESTY
YELLOW
ONIONS
2/\$3

ASSORTED
WESSON
OIL
\$1.87
48 OZ. BTL.

CALIFORNIA
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SOUR CREAM
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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Liberty Church of Christ to hold Vacation Bible School July 14-18, 2003 from 6:00 - 8:15.

Ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to attend. The theme will be "Mission: All Things are possible."

Supper will be served nightly. Liberty Church of Christ is located 6 miles from Elba on the Samson Highway, for more info, call Dana Mack at 898-2982.

Homecoming planned at Greater Springfield Missionary Baptist Church

Greater Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in New Brockton, Ala. will hold Homecoming July 13, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. and Revival Services July 14 - 18, 2003 at 7:15 p.m. nightly.



COME ONE, COME ALL To VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Ages 4 - 13

Activities Include
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JULY 13-17
5:30 - 8:30

(Light Supper Included)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 606 W. Simmons Contact Anne Cline @ 897-2246

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Sam Teston, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....5:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

BETHEL BAPTIST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Elie Phillips-Copes, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Darryl Caldwell, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Class.....6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Senn, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Robert Davis, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST
Rev. Martha Baster
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
E. H. Hill, Minister
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....12:00 noon
1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....7:30 a.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
E. J. Wesley, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE

Allen Richards, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA IN 1ST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. John L. Baxter, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA IN 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH

Pauline Rev. Roger Nix, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

ELBA UNITED METHODIST

Rev. John L. Baxter, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Levell Martin, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:30 a.m.

ELANON BAPTIST CHURCH

Bernie Strickland, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....6:15 p.m.

FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Ralph Medley Jr., Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

D. Kinston Bradshaw, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

GARDEN OF GOD

D. Kinston Bradshaw, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bro. Ashley Faulk-Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

JACKSON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bro. Jerry Long, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

JACKSON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bro. Jerry Long, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

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JACKSON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bro. Jerry Long, Pastor

SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

My youngest daughter told me last week that if I would buy a riding mower she would keep the yard cut the rest of the summer. I didn't get out and buy one, but it did bring back memories when I was young and my brothers and I complained to our Dad that the riding mower was too slow and it took too long to cut the grass. After a few weeks of hearing us fuss, he left the house one Saturday and came home with a big Yazo push mower and told us we could now cut the grass just as fast as we wanted to. While we did get the yard cut a little faster, it didn't take us long to wish we had that slow riding mower back. Just another lesson learned, and never forgotten.

SWINGS AND MISSES....

*** The All-Star season kicked off full blast last week for baseball and softball teams from Elba as six teams hit the tournament trail. In baseball the Dixie Minor All-Stars battled Geneva on even terms through six innings before giving out and losing, while the softball teams all won their first games in their tournaments and will still be alive this week in the double-elimination events. The surprise so far in tournament play came over in Dothan in the Dixie Boys 13-Year-Old All-Stars defeated both Ozark and Dothan Southern to claim runner-up honors behind Enterprise. The All-Stars and their parents made the long trip to the East side of Dothan four hours during the tournament and let their mark with their fine play and the great support from the large number of supporters. It would be a major upset if any of the Elba All-Star teams bring home a championship, but so far they have all played well and made their fans proud. Great job, keep it up!

*** I talked with former Elba Tiger player and assistant coach Leavy Boutwell last week and the new Northview Cougar coach sounded like he was meeting the challenge of coaching the Cougars head on and was actually looking forward to the season. Northview has struggled to 22 straight losses over the past three seasons and will be under the guidance of its third head coach in three years. However, Coach Boutwell is convinced he will begin the rebuilding process this season and that his team will play hard and play the game fundamentally sound in all areas. He didn't guarantee any wins or make any predictions, except to say that the players were buying into his beliefs and had a positive attitude. Rome wasn't built in a day, and Northview's football program won't be rebuilt in just one year, but there is no doubt in my mind that Coach Boutwell is the man for the job and the Cougar fans will see improvement very quickly. Oh yes, joining Coach Boutwell at Northview as an assistant is Matt Henderson, another former Elba Tiger standout. Coach Henderson was on staff at Geneva the past three years with Boutwell after spending a couple of years at Flomaton, and moved over to Northview when Boutwell was hired. All Elba fans need to keep an eye on these two former Tigers as they battle in the 6A ranks.

*** Former Alabama football coach Mike Price may never get the chance to be a head coach again at the college level, but he is trying to help his retirement plans by being Sports Illustrated and possibly the University of Alabama. Coach Price filed a \$20 million suit against the sports magazine for an article it printed that all but stated Price was a "dirty old man" that liked to drink, while his suit against Alabama will be over severance pay. While it seems unlikely that Price has much of a chance of winning either suit, it looks like his name will stay on the sports pages longer than it did as head coach at Bama.

*** The softball season at Hawkins-Williams Park may last throughout the summer if area men and women decide to take advantage of plans by the Elba Recreation Department to join a men's and co-ed league. Both leagues are scheduled to start in late July and continue through August, and maybe the softball players in the area will get together and have some fun at the park.

*** In closing....the place to be this summer for many youth and adults has been the Elba City Pool. Pool manager Jetey Wise reports the pool has been crowded all summer with kids and parents, and invites everyone to come out on the weekend of the 4th and join in on the fun. He says the water is cool, clear and refreshing.

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Holiday

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Defeat Dothan Southern and Ozark

Elba 13-year-olds claim runner-up spot

The Elba Dixie Boys 13-Year Old All-Stars made the trip to Dothan four nights last week to compete in the Dixie Boys Sub-District Baseball Tournament and claimed a win in four games to place second in the four-team tournament.

The All-Stars posted wins over Dothan Southern 12-6 and Ozark 6-5, while losing twice to tournament champion Enterprise 14-0 and 10-0.

"We probably didn't play as well as we could have in any game," stated Coach Stevie Walden, "but we played well enough to defeat both Dothan and Ozark and I honestly think could have beaten Enterprise if we had played our best. All the players worked hard in practice, and I think they had, and despite the long ride every night never complained and should be proud of placing second in such a tough sub-district."

Following are highlights of all four games:

*** Elba 12 Dothan

Southern 6 - The Elba All-Stars defeated a three-run third inning to pull ahead and then used a six-run outburst in the fifth inning to pull away in a 12-6 opening.

Elba hit in the loss and the All-Stars managed only one base runner in the final four innings after leaving the bases loaded in the first inning.

*** Elba 10 Ozark 7 - The

Elba All-Stars stayed alive at the top of the first when John Wayne Lambert drew a two-out walk, stole second and scored a run on an RBI single by Shane Adkinson, then added three runs in the top of the third to extend its lead to 4-0. The All-Stars took advantage of three walks and an error to plate the three runs, while a key hit and a walk, along with a one-out single by Nathan Foster.

*** Enterprise 10 Elba 0 -

The Elba All-Stars left the bases loaded in the top of the first and never threatened again as they fell to the Enterprise All-Stars 14-0.

Elba took advantage of two

walks and a single by Shane Adkinson to load the bases with two outs in the opening inning, but failed to push across a run as the All-Stars grabbed out on the change to a big 11-2 advantage.

A one-out single by Shane

Adkinson ignited the fourth

inning rally, while an RBI single by Gage Nalley got the All-Stars on the scoreboard and pumped life into the Elba players. Four straight walks and a single by Ryan McCollough helped the All-Stars blow the game open, and after being shut-out for three innings the Elba All-Stars suddenly found themselves in the lead 7-3!

Elba scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth to cut the Elba lead to 7-6, but the All-Stars answered with three runs in the top of the sixth to regain command at 10-6. A single by Logan Carney and errors on balls hit by Gage Nalley and Ryan McCollough were the key at-bats in the inning, as Elba regained momentum.

Elba scored a lone run in its half of the sixth to pull within 10-7, only to see Elba add an insurance run on a single by John Wayne Lambert and then pulled away to claim the lead 10-9.

Members of the Elba All-Stars were Don Rhodes, Nathan Foster, John Wayne Lambert, Shane Adkinson, Jeremy Sneed, Logan Carney, Gage Nalley, Kasey Grantham, Harry White, Col Anderson, Hunter Walden, Bobby Hudson and Ryan McCollough. Coaches were Steve Walden, James Foster and Dwain Rhodes.

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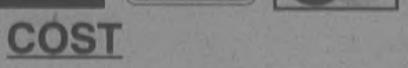
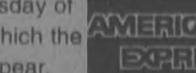
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